



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 1, 2010
Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:02 a.m. Board members Jo Blacketer, Mike Pettibone, James Edwards, Vicki Snyder, Steve Gabet, Daniel Elsener, Sarah O'Brien, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, and Neil Pickett were present. Dr. Tony Bennett and David Shane were not present.

I. **Call to Order**

Mr. Pettibone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Edwards moved for approval of the minutes. Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform, asked that the minutes reflect that when the Board approved cut scores for End of Course Assessments and the Modified Achievement Standard Test at the August meeting, the Board also approved the performance descriptors that were the basis for those scores. This was not in the title of the agenda item. Therefore the minutes were incorrect. The request now is that the Board make this amendment and approve the minutes as amended.

Mr. Gabet seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Statement of the Chair**

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Mr. Zaring said the Spotlight on Learning today highlights two programs – the first comes from the Pike Central STEM Initiative. He introduced Ray Niehaus, teacher, Project Lead The Way (PLTW.)

Mr. Niehaus said The Pike Central PLTW program recently was selected as one of 35 finalists from the US to participate in Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams grant.

Last year 140 students were enrolled in the PLTW class, and the program has grown tremendously. PLTW students, Jessica D’Esposito, C.M. Brown, and Travis Wood discussed projects they are working on.

Miss D’Esposito said a \$10,000 grant was awarded for the development of a disaster relief shelter for four people. The shelter will include wind and solar energy and a water filtration system. The shelter will fold down, weigh less than 150 pounds and will be able to be set up in 15 minutes.

C.M. Brown and Travis Wood said another project they are working on is to convert a military Humvee from diesel to a diesel/electric-hybrid vehicle and a single person hover craft that will flow 8-10 inches off the ground.

LeAnne Kelley, Principal, Pike Central Middle-High School talked about the support she has for the PLTW students and how wonderful it is that their approach to inventions is for helping others.

Mr. Niehaus said some students in the PLTW class are already working on other large projects including some who are seeking patents.

For the second part of the Spotlight on Learning, Amy Bush, Title I Director, introduced the Title I10 distinguished principals:

- David Rohl, Principal, Perry Meridian Middle School, Indianapolis.
- Jeff Cline, Principal, Fairfield Elementary, Fort Wayne.
- Maribeth Guhl, Principal, Nicholson Elementary.
- Julie Backhorn, Principal, Brookside Elementary.
- Greg Myers, Principal, J. E. Ober Elementary School.
- Tonya Weaver, Administrator, Garrett-Keyser-Butler CSD.
- Sally Vaught, Principal, Loper Elementary.
- Stephen Foster, Principal, Creston Intermediate Academy.
- Kristie Sweeney, Regional Director, Lighthouse Academies Charter School.
- Phil Talbert, Principal, Hawthorne Elementary.

Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Director of School Turnaround, discussed the Title I Distinguished Principals program and said each distinguished principal is paired with a comprehensive intensive Title I school and works with fellow principals, teachers, administrative staff, and community members to enhance student learning opportunities in that particular school.

V. Board Member Comments

Mr. Elsener said having the Spotlight on Learning recognition at the beginning of each meeting, which recognizes people and educators doing great things, is a wonderful part of the monthly Board meetings. By nature Boards deal with problems and challenges. It is good to see leadership and engaged learning and confirm that people are going the extra mile.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Dr. Troy Abbott, M.D.

VIII. Discussion

Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer, gave an update on the Citizens Checklist. Mr. Rhodes said when the Governor recommended a reduction of \$298,000,000 funding adjustment in December 2009, it was the recommendation of the Board, in collaboration with the Department of Education (DOE), that a Citizens Checklist be made. This was a tool for school corporations to identify possible savings they can realize to meet the adjustment and, at the same time, save as many classroom jobs as possible.

Mr. Rhodes said a Citizens Checklist survey was distributed to all schools by the Education Service Centers (ESC). Approximately 30 percent of school corporations completed the survey. DOE staff followed up with direct visits to ESC regional meetings and local member schools to discuss the survey results.

Mr. Rhodes said the survey questions dealt with the following issues:

- Monetary adjustments.
- Program adjustments.
- Adjustments that reduce the cost of staff without affecting instruction.
- Community reporting and engagement.
- Consolidation.

Mr. Rhodes gave Board members a copy of referenda information for May 4, 2010, and November 3, 2009, regarding general fund and capitol fund. The total referenda on those ballots was 26, of which 12 were passed by voters and 14 failed. Upcoming referenda for the November 2, 2010, election shows 10 for general funds and 4 for capitol funds.

Mr. Rhodes gave an update on stimulus funds. This is a two year funding program; we are now about half way through and have access to those funds.

Title I dollars (\$186,000,000) were available for 283 schools, but three said they did not want the money at all. For special education, about 60 percent of the \$250,000,000 has gone to schools. Money received for stabilization, which was used to support the general tuition (\$610,000,000), went out in 2009. K-12 dollars (\$135,000,000) was used in the May distribution, to be spent by June 30. Effectively all the stabilization money is out in the hands of the schools and has been expended (\$740,000,000.)

Mr. Rhodes discussed the Ed Jobs funds (\$203,000,000) available to schools, which was enacted two weeks ago. The application for this money is in the Governor's office and is due September 9. Once the application is approved and we get a grant award from the federal government, we are looking at a November distribution. Schools will draw that money as needed.

Anna Shultz, Reading Consultant, gave an update on Read On, Indiana! and discussed the progress made to develop Elementary Reading Plans that DOE is asking schools to submit prior to next school year. Ms. Shultz gave Board members a draft template, on which the reading plan will be based.

Discussions have been held with the office of Accreditation about the school improvement plan and how DOE could possibly take something off the plate of schools by replacing it with the Reading Plan.

Ms. Shultz said they will be asking the Board to consider a waiver for the submission of the P.L. 221 plan, just at the elementary level, and permission to submit the reading plan based on the template.

Mr. Zaring said the recommendation would be that the Reading Plan, based on the Board's statutory authority, satisfies the requirement for school improvement planning for elementary school.

Board members discussed concerns with the idea of the waiver.

Wes Bruce, Chief of Assessment, gave an update on assessment. Mr. Bruce discussed online testing and said they are making sure the structure is in place to move forward, so that it is done in a way that takes as much of the burden off schools as possible. Software will be installed on school networks that will allow DOE to look at the actual capacity of the networks of schools to be involved in online testing, at off times as well as peak times.

Rollout will be in October and November.

A 20 member technical advisory group has been formed to interact with the districts and to talk about issues that may be encountered.

The target is for 168,000 students to test online.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on Memorandum of Agreements (MOA). Two school corporations have returned a signed MOA. After a review to make sure they are the complete MOA documents, Dr. Bennett will sign them. Of the remaining corporations, three have indicated they are working towards signing their MOA. Three others indicated that the MOA, as currently stated, is not appropriate for them at this time, but they are actively pursuing their work plan. One corporation still has fundamental questions about the process. One corporation has announced it will close the school that was the subject to the review (grade six only school.) The school will develop a work plan which will benefit other schools in the corporation.

Mr. Zaring said the plan is to ask the school corporations that have signed the MOA to come to a Board meeting. Possibly two corporations will appear at the October meeting to talk about their work plans with Board members.

Mr. Zaring discussed the elementary and middle school and high school accountability models. Now that the 2009-2010 growth data is available, work may begin on a potential new accountability for elementary and middle schools. This will be discussed at the October Board meeting.

The high school accountability committee met recently and discussed a high school accountability model. Board members were sent an electronic list of possible components of a high school accountability model.

Mr. Zaring said a possible high school accountability model would include the following:

- English, math and biology ECA scores.
- Credit accumulation.

- Graduation.
- College and career attainment.

The next step is to put this together in what could be a possible index, have another conference call with committee members who are working on it, and report back to the Board in October.

Mr. Zaring said this plan needs to be in place a year from now for accountability determinations.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition renewal for Greenwood Christian Academy. [Agenda item X, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition renewal for Culver Academies. [Agenda item X, B]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition renewal for The Crossing Education Center. [Agenda item X, C]
- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition renewal for Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School. [Agenda item X, D]
- E. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition renewal for Cathedral High School. [Agenda item X, E]
- F. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition renewal for Midwest Academy MCYF. [Agenda item X, F]
- G. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition renewal for Trinity Christian School. [Agenda item X, G]

Mr. Elsener moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Matt Fleck, Director of High School Programs, presented a request for approval of K-12 technology standards and introduced Kelly McGregor, PLTW and STEM Specialist and Eric Ogle, Business and Marketing IT Specialist.

Mr. Edwards moved for approval. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Board members approved, by consensus, the 2011 meetings.

Mr. Edwards spoke about a past decision to make the avenue into teaching easier for professional and business people. He said he received a great deal of feedback from the outside, which was not favorable. However, the success of the Project Lead The Way program, taught by Ray Niehaus, a former business person is a testimony to the success of this change that was made by the DOE.

Mr. Gabet moved for adjournment. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.